13th March 1953]

MR. SPEAKER:—" In accordance with the regulations framed by me for the holding of elections according to the principle of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote, I fix 3 p.m., Wednesday, the 18th March 1953, as the time within which nomination papers of candidates for election to the House Committee should reach the Secretary. Nomination forms can be had on application to the Secretary.

" If the number of candidates nominated exceeds the number of seats to be filled, namely, eleven, a poll will be taken on a date to be announced in due course."

(3) ELECTION OF A MEMBER TO THE BOARD OF INDUSTRIES.

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO:—" Sir, I beg to move—

' *That, as Sri R. V. Swaminathan, M.L.A., ceased to be a member on the Board of Industries with effect from 16th November 1952, by efflux of time, in accordance with section 3 (1) (b) of the Madras State Aid to Industries Act, 1922 (Madras Act V of 1923), and rule 3 of the rules framed thereunder, this Assembly do proceed on a date to be fixed by the Speaker to elect one person to be the Assembly's representative on the Board of Industries constituted under the Act.*' "

MR. SPEAKER:—" Motion moved—

' That, as Sri R. V. Swaminathan, M.L.A., ceased to be a member on the Board of Industries with effect from 16th November 1952 by efflux of time, in accordance with section 3 (1) (b) of the Madras State Aid to Industries Act, 1922 (Madras Act V of 1923), and rule 3 of the rules framed thereunder, this Assembly do proceed on a date to be fixed by the Speaker to elect one person to be the Assembly's representative on the Board of Industries constituted under the Act.' "

* SRI K. KRISHNA RAO:—" Sir, we are electing from among us a number of people like this who are responsible to nobody but themselves. We elect members to the Railway Advisory Board, we elect members to the Board of Industries and so on. My point is we are entitled to know what these people are doing there because we elect them and as electors we are entitled to know what these persons have been doing on the Boards. We require periodical reports. There are a number of grievances in the State with regard to industries, railways and so many other things. The point is whether they are responsible to us or irresponsible. We ourselves are not irresponsible. In fact I raised a question about this particular point with regard to the Railway Advisory Board and I have had no response to it. Now the fundamental meaning of democracy is that the elected are responsible to the electors. Now I should like to know what Mr. Swaminathan has been doing on the Board, whether he has been putting anti-Soviet stuff there as he is fond of doing in the Assembly or whether he has been doing a good lot to industries which are really useful to the people. We really want to know what that gentleman has been doing on the Board.

[Sri K. Krishna Rao] [13th March 1953

whether he should be continued or someone else has to be sent or whether there is some other member willing to serve on the Board. It is a very bad principle to elect once again people who have proved themselves irresponsible and this should be given up. We like to know what Mr. Swaminathan has done in the past to entitle him to continue or whether there is another man who will be able to do better, to voice forth the interests and the aspirations of the people better on the Board. We do not know what these members do on the various Boards. Therefore, it is that I like to know these things before we take up this question of filling up the vacancy."

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO:—" Sir, it is indeed unfortunate that the hon. Member, Sri Krishna Rao, though he does not know what Mr. Swaminathan has been doing on the Board should have characterized his work in derogatory terms. (Hon. Members from Opposition Benches: 'No, no. He did not do it.') Sir, I understand English sufficiently well to know what members are talking. (Interruption.) I would like the hon. Member, Mr. Nagi Reddi, not to attempt to teach me English."

(Sri Nagi Reddi stood up in his place.)

MR. SPEAKER:—" The Hon. Minister is not yielding."

SRI K. KRISHNA RAO:—" On a point of personal explanation."

MR. SPEAKER:—" I shall allow the hon. Member to speak after the Hon. Minister has finished his reply."

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO:—" Sir, the hon. Member, Sri Krishna Rao, characterized the activities of Mr. Swaminathan as anti-Soviet stuff. It only shows the ignorance of the hon. Member about the functions of the Board of Industries. (Interruption.) If the hon. Member does not know it, let him not contradict me."

MR. SPEAKER:—" I have already allowed the hon. Member to speak on the motion. He should not interrupt the Hon. Minister. I will allow the hon. Member to make his personal explanation after the Minister has finished."

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO:—" I shall repeat what the hon. Member, Mr. Krishna Rao, said. Mr. Krishna Rao, I think, said: 'Whether Sri Swaminathan is carrying on in the Board of Industries the same anti-Soviet propaganda stuff that he is putting through here.' It only shows the ignorance of the Member about the functions of the Board of Industries. (Interruption.) The function of the Board is to examine applications for State aid to industries. It has nothing to do with other issues so far as the hon. Member from this House is concerned. What exactly the Board has been doing is a matter which is reported by the Director of Industries in his annual Administration Report. That report is placed before the House as and when available. The report is also supplied to Members on application. To say that they do not know the activities of the Board is one thing. But to say that the Member who is representing this Assembly on

13th March 1953] [Dr. U. Krishna Rao]

that Board is doing something else is in my opinion wrong. Mr. Swaminathan was elected in 1949 to this Board together with Sri Brahmanandam Reddi. Since Sri Brahmanandam Reddi was not re-elected to the House Mr. Srinivasa Padayachi was elected in his place. Now Mr. Swaminathan continued to hold the post and by efflux of time his seat has fallen vacant. I can tell the House that the Board of Industries and this Government have had valuable support from him and received valuable advice as to the nature of the industrial concerns that applied for loans to this Government and whether such concerns deserved the help of the Government or not. There are 12 members on the Board and Mr. Swaminathan is one. I, therefore, feel that such unwarranted attacks on the Members of the House are uncalled for."

* SRI K. KRISHNA RAO :—" On a point of personal explanation, Sir. The Hon. Minister referred to what I said about the activities of Mr. Swaminathan. Let me explain my remarks. There are two views with regard to the industrialization of this country. One is that our country should not be industrialized and that it should be a supplier of raw materials and agricultural commodities. Now what I meant by anti-Sovietism was the idea that our industries should not be developed. My point was whether Mr. Swaminathan was trying to put a spoke in the wheel of progress towards industrialization or whether he was aiding, and furthering the industrialization of the country. This is what I meant by Sovietism and anti-Sovietism. If the Hon. Dr. Krishna Rao has not known this I cannot help it. We expect a public worker of his type to know the current trends in politics and what Sovietism and anti-Sovietism meant. This is all my personal explanation. I wish the Hon. Minister would not think that anti-Sovietism has not its own foci on industries."

(Sri P. Venkateswarlu and some hon. Members rose up in their seats.)

MR. SPEAKER :—" After the Hon. Minister has replied there will be no further debate on the motion. I only allowed the hon. Member, Sri Krishna Rao, to make a personal explanation. The question is—

'That, as Sri R. V. Swaminathan, M.L.A., ceased to be a Member on the Board of Industries with effect from 16th November 1952, by efflux of time, in accordance with section 3 (1) (*b*) of the Madras State Aid to Industries Act, 1922 (Madras Act V of 1923), and rule 3 of the rules framed thereunder, this Assembly do proceed on a date to be fixed by the Speaker to elect one person to be the Assembly's representative on the Board of Industries constituted under the Act.' "

The motion was carried.

MR. SPEAKER :—" In accordance with the regulations framed by me for the holding of elections according to the principle of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote, I fix 3 p.m., Wednesday, the 18th March 1953, 9-20 a.m.

as the time within which nomination papers of candidates for election to the Board of Industries should reach the Secretary. Nomination forms can be had on application to the Secretary.

" If the number of candidates nominated exceeds the number of seats to be filled, namely, one, a poll will be taken on a date to be announced in due course."

III.—DISCUSSION ON THE GOVERNOR'S ADDRESS—*cont.*

* THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER:—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to reply to the criticisms made about the scarcity and famine conditions prevailing in many districts of the State. Sir, famine is serious and extensive. It is not as though our land was not subject to famine; I heard the other day one hon. Member saying that in the days of Rama there was famine. Therefore famine is not a new feature. But the new feature now is it is extensive as well as continuous and acute and we will have to dive a little to find out the causes for it.

" Sir, the Second World War upset the whole food position in the country and famine conditions have become acute as well as continuous thereafter. Soon after the Second World War, we had Independence and other difficulties. (Interruptions.) In the sense that Independence brought into existence a big Legislature of about 400 Members, each trying to ventilate his grievances and in some cases even ordinary deaths are taken to be starvation deaths. Sir, failure of monsoons has been continuous for about five or six years. So much so, scarcity conditions have been extensive, whereas previously they used to be centred in certain areas like Rayalaseema. Now, scarcity conditions are prevailing even in the fertile districts of Madurai, Tirunelveli, East Godavari, West Godavari, etc. Therefore, Sir, we are not able to tackle the problem as easily as we used to do in former days. Also, Sir, as I said some time back, the enlarged Legislature facilitated the ventilation of grievances by Members and it was not so in former days. In addition, the vernacular papers also highlight, if I may say so, and make the scarcity conditions appear as though there were starvation deaths galore. I do not deny that there are distress conditions. But what I want to say is that they are made to appear more serious than they are.

" Sir, let me take this opportunity of telling the hon. Members how we have been able to meet the scarcity and distress conditions throughout the State. If hon. Members view it dispassionately without any bias, they will come to the conclusion that the Government have done what all is possible and that they have not shirked their responsibility. There were 4,078 relief works in operation employing on an average about 264,000 people a day. For the period from 1st October 1951 to 15th February 1953, the amount so far spent on relief works is Rs. 3,18,00,000 and odd. We have been running about 2,000 gruel centres. On account of better agricultural season this year, they have been reduced in areas where they could be reduced and we are now running about